

# Making a Difference



BLM's 2004–2005 Volunteer Annual Report



# Letter from the Director



## Dear BLM Volunteers—

I am pleased to present the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) 2004 Volunteer Annual Report. The year 2004 marked the second straight one in which volunteers like you donated more than 1.5 million hours in support of the BLM. The time

you contributed in 2004 was equivalent to the work of more than 800 full-time BLM employees.

As you well know, the resources that the BLM manages and our multiple-use mission are important to the well-being of every American—both now and in the future. Energy resources from the public lands help ensure the quality of life we enjoy. Ranching helps sustain rural economies throughout the West. In carrying out its mission, BLM guards the health of fragile deserts and waterways and preserves precious biological and heritage resources. The challenges are many, and as this report demonstrates, BLM volunteers play a vital role in meeting those challenges.

Concerned citizens such as you, who believe in our mission and who love the public lands, are truly making a difference in our ability to care for these lands. On behalf of all of us in the Bureau of Land Management, thank you for your dedication and for your invaluable contributions to America's public lands.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Clarke".

Kathleen Clarke  
Director, Bureau of Land Management

## Volunteer Activity for Fiscal Years 1999-2004

Year	Total Hours	Value to BLM (\$)	Work Years <sup>3</sup>	Value of One Work Hour (\$) <sup>4</sup>	Value of One Work Year (\$)
<b>2004</b>	1,506,365	26,436,706 <sup>2</sup>	837	17.55	31,590
<b>2003</b>	1,553,014	26,696,311	863	17.19	30,942
<b>2002</b>	1,231,245	20,364,792	684	16.54	29,772
<b>2001</b>	1,119,038	17,960,560	622	16.05	28,890
<b>2000<sup>1</sup></b>	755,576	11,628,315	420	15.39	27,702
<b>1999</b>	962,293	14,270,805	535	14.83	26,694

<sup>1</sup> Incomplete data for the year 2000. Not all field offices reported.

<sup>2</sup> The 2004 volunteer program was accomplished at a cost of \$1,643,593, for a return of about \$16.08 for every \$1.00 expended.

<sup>3</sup> 1 work year = 1,800 hours.

<sup>4</sup> The value of volunteer contributions is calculated annually by Independent Sector ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)), a national leadership forum committed to volunteerism and citizen action. The amount is based on the latest data available on the average hourly wage for nonagricultural workers and is published in the yearly Economic Report of the President.

## Summary of BLM State Office Volunteer Contributions, Fiscal Year 2004

State	Hours	Value <sup>1</sup>	Work Years <sup>2</sup>
Alaska	32,441	\$569,339.55	18
Arizona	137,587	\$2,414,651.85	76
California	438,987	\$7,704,221.85	244
Colorado	190,492	\$3,343,134.60	106
Eastern States	23,725	\$416,373.75	13
Idaho	36,005	\$631,887.75	20
Montana	32,369	\$568,075.95	18
Nevada	160,941	\$2,824,514.55	89
New Mexico	99,302	\$1,742,750.10	55
Oregon	250,879	\$4,402,926.45	139
Utah	57,976	\$1,017,478.80	32
Wyoming	45,247	\$794,084.85	25
National Interagency Fire Center	414	\$7,265.70	0
<b>Totals<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>1,506,365</b>	<b>\$26,436,705.75</b>	<b>837</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on a rate of \$17.55 per hour, as calculated by Independent Sector ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)).

<sup>2</sup> 1 work year = 1,800 hours.

<sup>3</sup> Totals may be off due to rounding.

# BLM's Volunteers

ONE OF BLM'S GREATEST RESOURCES is its volunteers. Each year, volunteers contribute an overwhelming amount of time to help care for BLM public lands and resources. Fiscal year 2004 was no exception—for the second year in a row, volunteers contributed more than 1.5 million hours worth more than \$26 million.

As in previous years, volunteers continued to support BLM across virtually all program areas. Recreation areas benefited from volunteers who spent thousands of hours maintaining and constructing trails, refurbishing facilities, and serving as campground hosts. The biological resources of our public lands are in better shape thanks to volunteer weed warriors, seed collectors, and wildlife watchers and monitors. Wild horses and burros are being trained and adopted with the assistance of dedicated volunteers. Rivers and watersheds are healthier because of volunteers who participated in dozens of cleanup events throughout the year. And visitors can better appreciate the value of the public lands thanks in large part to education and interpretation provided by volunteers.

BLM lands do have many uses and, thankfully, many volunteers to help sustain them. Our volunteers are individuals, couples, and groups, including more than 400 local and national partners—from small businesses to nonprofit organizations to other government agencies. In addition to providing people power, BLM partners supply materials and financial support for many projects

and events. A list of the diverse partners cited for special mention by our state and field offices is available on our Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/volunteer/partners/index.html>.

In 2004, a renewed appreciation for the contributions of volunteers resulted in the development of a new national strategy for the volunteer program. Volunteer coordinators, field managers, volunteers, and resource program representatives from every BLM state came together for a workshop in February. About 30 participants helped formulate goals and objectives for the new strategy, which were further refined in the following months. Specific actions have been implemented that have already resulted in greater awareness of the role volunteers play in the BLM and increased support for BLM's volunteer program. This year's annual report reflects the first steps taken on a journey to better management of the volunteer program. Volunteers contributed much to BLM in 2004 and, under the guidance of the new strategy, they no doubt will continue to do so for years to come.

## National Totals for Fiscal Year 2004

Program	Volunteer Hours <sup>1</sup>	Hosted Worker Hours <sup>1</sup>	Total Hours
Recreation	480,652	56,146	536,798
Biological Resources	112,970	291,644	404,614
Wild Horses and Burros	41,217	86,273	127,490
Cadastral Survey	2,738	0	2,738
Wilderness	15,825	200	16,025
Riparian/Watershed	18,271	11,533	29,804
Cultural/Historical	120,716	12,209	132,925
Minerals	3,669	2,400	6,069
Support Services	90,464	61,302	151,766
Environmental Education/Interpretation	47,304	4,485	51,789
Other	28,203	18,144	46,347
<b>Total</b>	<b>962,029</b>	<b>544,336</b>	<b>1,506,365</b>
Funds Expended	\$1,346,446.94	\$297,145.72	\$1,643,592.66
<b>Value of Work<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$16,883,608.95</b>	<b>\$9,553,096.80</b>	<b>\$26,436,705.75</b>

<sup>1</sup> The term "volunteer," as used in the rest of this report, includes "hosted workers." Volunteers work for BLM without being paid. They donate their time and, in some instances, equipment and money to assist BLM with a variety of jobs. Hosted workers, on the other hand, are paid by another organization but work for BLM at no charge. Hosted workers made up about 36 percent of the total volunteer time in 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Based on a rate of \$17.55 per hour, as calculated by Independent Sector ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)).

# Selected Highlights by BLM Program

## Recreation

Campbell Creek Science Center, AK: Two youth groups gave more than 1,000 hours to spruce up trails and other areas of the Campbell Tract, and a Junior Girl Scout troop from Anchorage, as part of a Linking Girls to the Land project, adopted the Smokejumper Trailhead and Moose Track Trail.

Arizona Strip, AZ: Sixteen volunteers contributed almost 2,000 hours to the Interagency Information Center in 2004, answering questions and assisting nearly 100,000 visitors.



Redding, CA: BLM Director Kathleen Clarke joined agency staff and about 100 volunteers for a "Day on the River," a float trip on the Trinity River for dozens of children with serious illnesses and disabilities. Staff from more than a dozen government agencies and more than 50 businesses helped coordinate the event.

Grand Junction, CO: Members of the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Association spent nearly 1,400 hours on mountain bike trail maintenance and construction.



BLM-Eastern States: At Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, volunteers maintained fields for model airplane flyers, planned and conducted visitor surveys, assembled picnic tables, and assisted with recreation maintenance and horse boarding.

Challis, ID: At the new Challis Bridge Recreation Site on the Salmon River, the Army Corps of Engineers installed a wooden fence to protect riparian vegetation, the BLM enhanced the boat ramp and dog walking area, and 17 volunteers helped remove trash, install picnic tables and barbecue grills, and reseed the area with native plants.



Miles City, MT: A new Citizens' Watch Program enlisted volunteers who conducted 12 patrols and installed off-highway vehicle signs in the area.

Battle Mountain, NV: At the Mill Creek Campground, 35 volunteers created an interpretive trail and installed plant identification signs. The volunteers included high school students who had attended Mill Creek Environmental Education Days when they were in the sixth grade.



Farmington, NM: Volunteers donated nearly 150 hours to trash cleanup, sign installation, and other projects to improve mountain biking and off-road vehicle trails in the Glade Run Recreation Area.

Roseburg, OR: On National Public Lands Day, nearly 100 volunteers constructed a trail and posted interpretive signs at the old Rock Creek Saw Mill along the North Umpqua River. They also planted trees and shrubs and installed benches along the trail.



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, UT: Numerous partner groups and area volunteers cleaned up accumulated debris around an equestrian trailhead near Escalante and near Big Water, volunteers replaced a barbwire fence with a more wildlife-friendly pole fence.

Casper, WY: As part of the Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) Program, young people performed maintenance at various BLM recreation sites while learning about such topics as plants, wildlife, paleontology, and geology.

## Biological Resources

Arizona Strip, AZ: As part of the Mount Trumbull Forest Restoration project, 25 volunteers helped foresters reseed burned areas and prepare unburned areas for prescribed fire. This cutting-edge research project will help forest managers improve forest health.

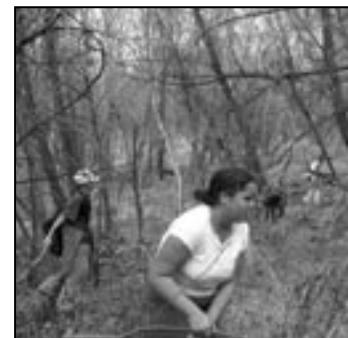
Spokane, WA, and Burns, OR: More than 40 volunteers from the Boy Scouts, Oregon Hunters Association, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation helped install and maintain guzzlers, which capture rainwater for wildlife use.

Cody, WY: A hosted worker spent the summer conducting an inventory of aspen stands, which involved obtaining global positioning system information on acreages and locations, assessing stand health, and determining fire regime classifications. The information should help prioritize the stands that require rehabilitation and determine the most beneficial treatments for each stand.



## Wild Horses and Burros

BLM-Arizona: Two volunteers conducted numerous outreach activities, including making presentations to local schools, businesses, and civic groups; educating prospective adopters; and posting flyers in the community.



Grand Junction, CO: Members of the Friends of the Mustang provided nearly 4,000 hours of volunteer service to help manage the Little Bookcliffs wild horse herd.

BLM-New Mexico: Numerous volunteers throughout the four-state area (NM, TX, OK, and KS) donated their time to a variety of promotional efforts. In addition, partnerships among BLM and correctional facilities in Oklahoma and Kansas provided opportunities for incarcerated individuals to gentle wild horses prior to adoption.



## Wilderness

Yuma, AZ: Volunteers from the Sierra Club, Boy Scouts, and American Hiking Society helped to reclaim sections of an antiquated jeep trail in the Eagletails Mountains Wilderness Area.

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, CO: Volunteers from the San Juan Mountains Association helped replace a section of boundary fence and the gate at the primary access point to the Cahone Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA). In the Cross Canyon WSA, the Colorado Environmental Coalition recruited volunteers to participate in a 2-day project to reclaim an abandoned road.



Lander, WY: In the Sweetwater Canyon WSA, for a National Public Lands Day event, 20 volunteers took photos and wrote narratives about wilderness values such as solitude, naturalness, scenic qualities, and opportunities for unconfined recreation.



## Riparian/Watershed

Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, AZ: Students and teachers participating in a Wonderful Outdoor World Program learned about tamarisk (saltcedar), an invasive plant, and helped remove several dozen plants from the Cienega Creek riparian corridor.

Yuma, AZ: More than 80 volunteers in 20 boats participated in the 15th Annual Reverse River Run—a 2-day cleanup of the Colorado River shoreline between Yuma, Arizona, and Blythe, California. Organized by the group Amigos del Rio and supported by several Yuma businesses, the event included a no-host barbecue and prizes for various categories of trash collected.

Monticello, UT: Volunteers from several private river runners formed a flotilla of rafts, canoes, and kayaks to scour the banks of the San Juan River. Spring and fall floods carried down all kinds of debris—from tennis balls to tires to refrigerators—and hundreds of pounds of trash were retrieved through this cleanup effort.



## Cultural/Historical

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (NCA), AZ: The Sierra Vista Rotary Club chose to develop the Millville Historic Town Trail/Petroglyph Discovery Trail as their project to help commemorate the 100th anniversary of Rotary International. Working with young people from the Mormon Church, club members built a handicapped-accessible trail segment, cleared brush, and installed directional signs and petroglyph viewing tubes.



Kremmling, CO: Professors and graduate students from the University of Wyoming completed the 12th year of research in Middle Park, Colorado, documenting one of the highest concentrations of Paleo-Indian occupations known in North America.



Salmon, ID: Volunteer paleontologists from several museums held a 4-day field conference to acquaint field office staff with newly discovered vertebrate fossil sites in the area.

Jackson, MS (Eastern States): A volunteer dressed in period clothing and portrayed an early 19th-century woman at several National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration events held in Illinois, Missouri, and Nebraska.



Billings, MT: Volunteers from Montana State University and Western Wyoming College participated in excavations at the Jack Creek Underlook site in Carbon County. Students inventoried more than 800 acres in the Weatherman Draw Area of Critical Environmental Concern and recovered information from a 1,300-year-old Fremont occupation.

Elko, NV: Through the Challenge Cost Share Program, the Elko field office hosted two field schools—one held jointly with the University of Nevada, Reno, in cooperation with the Desert Research Institute, and the other in cooperation with Great Basin College. Together, volunteers from both field schools contributed 3,600 hours of research on the cultural resources in the area.



St. George, UT: About 50 trained stewards monitored 65 sites as part of the Color Country Site Stewards Project, while other volunteers donated their time to site protection work in the Santa Clara River Reserve.

## Environmental Education/Interpretation

Campbell Creek Science Center, AK: Students from Alaska Pacific University conducted a stream study with area fifth graders. The university students worked with their professors and science center

staff to develop the program and did everything from raising money to subsidize student attendance to visiting classrooms to prepare students for the study.

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, CO: Volunteers played a key role in providing interpretive programs, ranging from tours of Escalante Pueblo to hands-on activities such as throwing atlatls, classifying ceramic sherds, and interpreting petroglyphs. Volunteers also presented "Rocks and Pots," a popular program on local geology and the lithic and ceramic artifacts in the area.

Eugene, OR: More than a dozen volunteers from the Willamette Resources and Education Network contributed their service at the West Eugene Wetlands to educate about 2,000 schoolchildren on the value and importance of wetland habitat.



## Other

BLM-Nevada: A volunteer in the State Office has served as a "picture historian" and photographer, adding hundreds of photos to the Nevada photo database.

Roswell, NM: With funding for materials supplied by BLM and the Cave Research Foundation, a small business owner in Albuquerque has donated his time for more than 10 years to construct and install state-of-the-art, bat-friendly, vandal-resistant gates for caves in the Roswell area, including a new closure gate for Roaring Hills in Fort Stanton Cave.



## Special Events

### "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Awards

The BLM presented eight "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Awards—seven to individuals and groups and one to a BLM employee—for outstanding volunteer service or volunteer program leadership on the public lands in 2004. The volunteers honored (with the locations of their work) were: Jeff Landis, Yuma, AZ; Barbara Williams, Folsom, CA; Larry Haight, Lewistown, MT; Willie Stephenitch, Las Vegas, NV; Darrell and Terri Wade, Ely, NV; the Socorro Field Office Off-Highway Vehicle Program Volunteers, Socorro, NM; the Jefferson County Adult and Juvenile Community Justice Program, Prineville, OR; and BLM employee Manuel Guerra, Las Cruces, NM.



### Take Pride in America Awards

BLM was well represented at the national Take Pride in America (TPIA) awards ceremony held in Washington, DC, in September 2004. Lou Ann Jacobson, manager of Canyons of the Ancients National Monument and Anasazi Heritage Center (CO), received the Federal Land Manager Award; Joe Ross, of BLM's Roseburg (OR) District received the Federal Volunteer Program Award; and Boy Scout Troop 46 from Douglas County (OR), which BLM provides with materials and technical insight through a partnership, received the Youth Award. Sherry Foot, Utah's state volunteer coordinator, was one of the representatives of the winning State program, Take Pride in Utah. During 2004, more than 80 volunteers received the TPIA Presidential Award for contributing more than 4,000 lifetime hours.



### National Public Lands Day

In 2004, approximately 9,500 BLM volunteers participated in National Public Lands Day (NPLD) events at more than 100 sites in 18 States, with work projects that spanned a variety of BLM programs. A new feature for 2004 was the recognition of NPLD volunteers with "fee-free" coupons, good for one free entry to any fee site managed by BLM or certain other NPLD participating Federal agencies.



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